PREFACE

THE GREAT WAR AND INTELLECTUALS FROM EAST-CENTRAL EUROPE: REFLECTIONS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF A CENTURY

Recent years have seen numerous conferences, lectures, new books and other forms of publications or initiatives dedicated to the centenary of the outbreak of World War I (WWI) — the enormous military conflict that has been overshadowed by World War II in historiography. It thus needs even more attention and research, especially as far as the Central European perspective is concerned. Military elements clearly dominated in the aforementioned books and events, yet social and economical aspects of war have only recently been given more attention. There is no doubt that World War I affected all the inhabitants of Europe, either through warfare, occupation or the experiences of living beyond the frontline and in politically neutral countries. The lives of many social groups and individuals changed dramatically. Peoples' fates after the war were determined by their wartime experiences. The roles and meaning of, broadly speaking, intellectuals (i.e. scholars, artists, journalists, well-educated individuals, freelance workers, officials etc.) were no exception.

This volume was planned as an academic and methodological exchange of views between historians and other scholars dealing with social history of World War I in East-Central Europe. Its main aim is an attempt to answer the question how the conflict affected intellectuals in certain clearly defined aspects (family, education, religion, gender, sexuality). Their wartime experiences were surely shaped by their whereabouts, everyday life matters, standard of living, and in the case of soldiers — the type of military service. We also took a closer look at members of the intelligentsia who fought in the trenches, those

who worked in propaganda or those who held civil service posts in the belligerent countries. It still seems to be an important question whether the cooperation of intellectuals and scholars with the war apparatus was conscious, voluntary, whether it was a form of social mission carried out for the state or nation, or maybe an attempt by the governments and rulers to use the "naive clerks" instrumentally? Among many important issues there is also a reflection on the intellectuals' stance towards militarism and the outbreak of war: their reactions, thoughts, predictions, and the way they interpreted the war events for society. That is why we also wanted to find out how the war was conceptualized by intellectuals, how it was commented upon and how the post-war reality was conceived. This latter issue was undoubtedly connected with the national revivals in East-Central Europe. In order to get a broader look, i.e. outside the strict chronological boundaries, we wanted to examine how World War I experiences impacted intellectuals and artists. How were they able to function in the "new" post-war reality? What did the relations between their societies and family life look like? We were particularly interested in research projects capturing the phenomenon of WWI in a broader cultural and chronological context, dealing with the war-connected aspects of social continuity and change, as well as comparing and contrasting the experience of groups and individuals across different regions of Europe. Not all questions could be answered in a satisfying way; some require further research, particularly in the comparative perspective. Nevertheless, a lot of studies published in different languages devoted to World War I allow us to hope that the research on the influence of this conflict on generations in the first half of the 20th century (including intellectuals), will be continued. In the attempt to answer the questions important for the project, a group of acknowledged international experts has collaborated with the authors. They come from Austria, Croatia, Germany, Poland, Slovenia, the USA, Ukraine, Hungary and Italy. Their texts oscillate around national discourses on the significance of World War I in different parts of Central and Eastern Europe and the participation of the intelligentsia in working for the great world powers or particular national groups, collaboration between intellectuals (scholars, writers, artists, journalists) and creating new concepts and political and historical constructions. What runs through the majority of the texts is the problem of measurable effects of the war, both in the social and individual dimensions — to what extent the WWI generation felt they had wasted their achievements and how the years of fighting let them make their dreams come true and find themselves in the new post-war reality. In many of the reviewed papers the reader will find examples of coping with battle, imprisonment and death, and the associated feelings of desperation, discouragement, apathy etc. On the other hand the authors have noticed that for many intellectuals war was an opportunity to re-evaluate their own social and professional role, at the same time being a chance to turn over a new leaf.

Two important articles open the reviewed book, actually introducing us in the theme: "War and the Habsburg Monarchy: A Revisionist View" by Pieter M. Judson and "First Write, Then Shoot: East Central European Intellectuals and the Great War" by Maciej Górny. Judson gets into an argument with a lot of historians dealing with WWI in Austria-Hungary and attempts to take a different look at the issues under debate, expanding the theses he had already put forward elsewhere. Górny proves to what extent well-known European intellectuals devoted their skills and abilities to propaganda, especially in the first months of the war.

Maciej Górny's reflections correspond well with the text by Viktoriia Voloshenko ("Intellectuals and (Anti)Military Propaganda in the Popular Literature for Ukrainian Peasantry Before World War I"). It opens a series of articles whose authors ponder upon the national narration of WWI; how service for the nation obscured a wider perspective in intellectuals from particular national groups — humanistic and humane. A lot of authors have shown the exceeding of professional roles by university professors, journalists and artists, for whom their professions had become a basis for fulfilling an intelligentsia mission in the changing reality of the war. The authors who write about that are: Liubov Zhvanko ("Ukrainian Intelligentsia and the Refugees of World War I"), Belinda Davis ("'Going All the Way' for the People? Reading Traugott v. Jagow's Wartime Transformations"), Eszter Balázs ("The Intellectual's Body in War: Hungarian Writers' Cases in World War I"), Stevo Đurašković ("Croatian Intellectuals and World War I: Between Croatia as a Bulwark of *Mitteleuropa* Towards the West and the Other Way Around"), Kamil Ruszała ("Intellectuals and the Galician Refugees During World War I in Austria-Hungary: Disparate Attitudes") and Marko Vukičević ("Architects of Zagreb: Careers and the Great War").

A considerable part of the reviewed book are case studies of eminent representatives of the world of science, education, politics, religion and journalism. Andrzej Synowiec writes about the community involvement of Stefan Jentys — professor of the Jagiellonian University in Cracow. Natalia Kolb has devoted her paper to the image of war in the correspondence of a well-known Ukrainian activist Rev. Isydor Hlynskyi. Andrea Griffante in the text "Between Pain and Care: Once More on Gabrielė Petkevičaitė War Experience" looks at the wartime experience of Lithuanian women, describing the case of the oldest female deputy who was honored to open the first session of the Lithuanian Parliament in 1920. Three studies are concerned with the Jewish wartime experience. The authors who take up that topic from different perspectives are: Susanne Korbel ("The *Österreichische Reiterlied* by Dr. Zuckermann: A Nearly Forgotten History of a Jewish Intellectual in the Great War"), Robert Blobaum ("Noah Prylucki: Jewish Nationalist or Polish Democrat?") and Andrew Kier Wise and Penny Messinger ("Anna and Boris Reinstein and the Socialist Response to World War I"). Their

protagonists live in Czech towns, Warsaw and Buffalo, USA (as emigrants) but they have one thing in common: they represent the minority getting increasingly unwelcome during the war. The authors discuss not only the changing fates of the Jews from Central and Eastern Europe but also examples of wartime anti-Semitism of various provenance. That part of the book ends with two papers devoted to the people who had become liaisons between the world of Central Europe and outside patterns. Tomasz Pudłocki in his article "'Stranger in the Night'? A Canadian on the Czech-Polish Borderland During World War I: The Case of William John Rose" shows a complex situation of British citizens whom the war caught in Austria-Hungary. Most of them were interned; some, like W.J. Rose, used their forced isolation to learn languages and establish contacts with the local intelligentsia, as early as in the fall of 1918 becoming experts on that region, who were still missing in the West. Kumru Toktamis, using contrast and comparison, presents the complicated fates of a Turkish-Kurdish married couple, who in the conditions of WWI and Turkish nationalism defied the growing hatred towards national and ethnic minorities in the Ottoman Empire.

The book ends with some chronological studies going beyond the war years. They refer to the instances of activity in which WWI played an enormous role — writing about it, using its achievements and the memory of that conflict as of an amalgam constructing modern ethnic identity. They are articles by Michael Jung ("Professors of the Technische Hochschule Hannover and the Great War: Attitudes and Their Political Impact Until the 1930s") and by Iryna Orlevych ("The Talerhof Tragedy in the Intellectual Thought of Galician Russophiles in the Interwar Period").

The role of intellectuals during WWI is an issue which poses a lot of challenges. The tremendous authority scholars enjoyed in the 19th century as specialists in many fields had put them on a social pedestal — the faith in their abilities was often identified with their appropriate social and moral attitude. Despite a certain *cursus honorum* applying particularly to university professors, it was not always followed; the war forced them to redefine their roles, also in the context of the service for the state, nation or science. World War I did not undermine their position, however; moreover, despite their diverse attitudes during the 1914–1918 (or even 1921, as the war lasted longer in this part of the world), even reinforced it, which is shown in their fates in national states which grew on the ruins of Central European empires. Therefore those intellectuals who survived, often became pillars of new state structures. Exploring their stories and discovering mechanisms which enabled them to start anew after 1918, seems to be a project not only important but also fascinating. We hope that this collection of texts will be helpful in that intellectual journey.

Tomasz Pudłocki and Kamil Ruszała